

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) Pod for evacuating persons, including a central mast (1, 8), a support section (9) of which bears ends (31) of arms (30) pivotally mounted so that respective opposed free sections (32) are, in a folded back position substantially axial in relation to an axis of the mast (1, 8), maintained by a removable locking device, wherein the locking device comprises an axially movable crown member (10) disposed at an axial distance from the support section (9), to radially maintain the arms (30) locked, the crown member (10) being held in a locking position, through a hysteresis effect, in which the crown member (10) can be driven, through the expansion of a loaded spring (20), one end of which occupies a counter-pressure position axially fixed in relation to the mast (1, 8), in a movement of recoil from its locking position, only after an additional loading of the spring (20) by an external force in order to release a mobile stop (21) arranged for inhibiting the action of the spring (20) and held in a precarious anti-recoil stop equilibrium by the crown member (10).

2. (Original) Pod according to claim 1, in which the crown member (10) is mounted for sliding on an opposed section (2) of the mast (1, 8).

3. (Original) Pod according to claim 1, in which the crown member (10) is mounted for sliding on a section of a particular one of the arms (30).

4. (Original) Pod according to claim 3, in which the spring (20) is arranged so that its counter-pressure is exerted on a lateral relief portion of the particular arm.

5. (Currently amended) Pod according to ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~, claim 1, in which the stop (21) is arranged to take a counter-pressure on a lateral relief portion of one of the arms (30).

6. (Currently amended) Pod according to ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~, claim 1, in which there are provided means (22) for driving the stop (20) out of its position of precarious equilibrium.

7. (Original) Pod according to claim 6, in which the means for driving the stop (21) comprise a return spring (22).

8. (Original) Pod according to claim 6, in which the means for driving the stop (21) comprise a link fixed to the crown member (10).

9. (Original) Pod according to claim 6, in which the means for driving the stop (21) comprise (use B)

10. (Currently amended) Pod according to ~~one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, in which the crown member (10) comprises an axial relief portion (15) for maintaining the stop (21) in precarious equilibrium.

11. (Currently amended) Pod according to ~~one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, in which the stop (21) is mounted so as to be movable on the mast (1, 8).

12. (Currently amended) Pod according to ~~one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, in which the stop (1) is mounted so as to be movable on the crown member (10).

13. (Currently amended) Pod according to ~~one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, in which the stop (21) is mounted pivotally.

14. (Original) Pod according to claim 13, in which the stop member (21) is mounted so as to pivot elastically about an axis substantially parallel to a sliding direction of the crown member (10) so as to be drawn back, out of a position of precarious equilibrium, into an angular sector affording it free axial passage.

15. (Currently amended) Pod according to ~~one of claims 13 and 14~~, claim 13, in which the stop (21) is associated with a pivoting limiting member defining the position of precarious equilibrium, in which the stop (21) is associated with a pivoting limiting member defining the position of precarious equilibrium and in which the stop (21) has a travel intersecting, in the position of precarious equilibrium, that of another stop forming the pivoting limiting member.

16. Cancelled

17. (Currently amended) Pod according to ~~one of claims 1 to 16~~, claim 1, in which the stop (21) comprises a hook having an inner abutment surface cooperating with a relief portion for retaining the crown member (10).

18. (Currently amended) Pod according to ~~one of claims 1 to 17~~, claim 1, in which the stop (21) has the shape of a cam arranged for, when located outside the position of precarious equilibrium, being driven by the crown member (10) out of the recoil travel of the latter.

19. (Currently amended) Pod according to ~~one of claims 1 to 18~~, claim 1, in which the crown member (10) has a determined mass to perform the additional loading of the spring (20) in the event of a threshold of deceleration being exceeded.

20. (Currently amended) Pod according to ~~one of claims 1 to 19~~, claim 1, in which the crown member (10) is formed by a ring (11) bearing tabs for holding the free sections (32) of the respective arms.

21. (Currently amended) Pod according to claim 20, in which the mast (1, 8) is externally threaded over a recoil travel path section on which the crown member (10) recoils, said externally threaded ~~section~~ section cooperating with an internal thread of the crown member (10) so as to angularly offset, in the recoil travel movement, sectors, of the tabs, arranged for

causing said locking condition, said offset being in relation to fixed sectors occupied by the free sections of the arms.

22. (Currently amended) Pod according to ~~one of claims 1 to 21~~, claim 1, in which the crown member (10) is arranged to cooperate with a safety mechanism provided for holding it in the position for locking the arms (30).

23. (Original) Pod according to claim 22, in which the mast (1, 8) has a non-circular cross-section fitted to a shape corresponding sliding member (11) for an axial sliding of the crown member (10) to angularly index the crown member (10), with the mast (1, 10) having, in the area of the position of the crown member (10) locking the arms (30), a section with a non-fitted cross-section delimiting a circumferential lateral passage accessible to the sliding member (11) through a rotation of the crown member (10) by an operator and having two axially opposed shoulders for holding the crown member (10) in the axial arm locking position.

24. (Original) Pod according to claim 22, in which the crown member (10) belongs to a head (2) of the mast (1, 8) comprising a slide means of the safety mechanism, movable in a radial plane of the mast (1, 8) to cooperate with at least one shoulder facing the crown member (10) in order to axially block the crown member (10) in at least one sliding direction.